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THE JOHN BROWN LETTERS.

FOUND IN THE VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY IN 1901.

(CONTINUED)

YRNEH TO JOHN BROWN.

[Envelope] MS.] John Brown, Charlestown, Va.

A great favor will be conferred if he is allowed to read this
[Endorsed] Deciphered. Significant.

[Deciphered]

Boston, Nov. 21st, 59.

Dear Brown:

Twenty of them left this morning and thirty-three start thurs-
day—They will bring you with them or die. Yrs. Henry.

P. S. I have written on this card: thinking you could conceal
it, if this is found do not reveal my name.

Notsob Von, 21st, 59.

Read Nwordb

Ytnewt fo meht tfel ereh siht gninrom dna ytriht eerht
trats yadsruht. Yeht lliw gnirb uoy htiw meht ro eid.

Sry,

Yrneh.

S. P. I evah netitrw no siht drac gnikniht uoy dluoc laecnoc
ot, fi siht si dnuof od ton leaver ym eman. H.

ROBT. STUBBS TO POSTMASTER, CHARLESTOWN, VA.

[Envelope] [MS.] To the Post Master, Charlestown, Vir-
ginia. U. S. A. [Endorsed] Robt. Stubbs, New Brunswick.
Cowardly bravado!

To the Post Master at Charlestown, Virginia:

Sir,—“All men are born free & equal”—such *is* the heading
of *your* Charter of Independence—such *is not your* practice now-
a-days. Witness the hanging of John Brown—for attempting
to advocate the doctrine asserted in your delaration of *indepen-*
dence. *We*, born in a *free country* under laws recognizing

the *equal* rights of *every man white or black* defy you—May the just ruler of the universe punish you as you deserve.

ROBERT STUBS,
Accountant & Notary public,
St. John, New Brunswick, British
North America, Dec'r 19th, 1859.

———, TO JOHN BROWN.

[Envelope] [MS.] John Brown, Esq., at the Charlestown Jail, Charlestown, Jefferson County, Virginia.

[Endorsed] Contemptible nonsense.

Phila., Nov. 26th, '59.

John Brown:

Dear Sir,—We will assist you on next Friday, As I will at the command of 5,000 men arm with Pike's rifles and have four pieces of cannon if the Governor resist in us taking you with us we will storm the Jail and take you by force; also tell captain Cook that he all right the men wont Get hang because Wise is afraid remember this is a Secret.

Yours Truly,
A friend of yours and enemy of Wise.

[ENDORSED] LIST OF INSURGENTS AS FURNISHED ME BY
BROWN & STEPHENS AT HARPER'S FERRY.

A. H.

White men:

John Brown, N. York.
Aaron C. Stephens, Connecticut.
Edwin Coppie, Iowa.
Oliver Brown, N. York.
Watson Brown, Same.
Albert Haslet, Penn*.
W^m Leman, Maine.
John Cooke, got off Connecticut formerly—here lately.
Stuart Taylor, Canada.
Chas. P. Tidd, Maine.
W^m Thompson, N. York.

Dolph Thompson, Same.

John Kager, Brought up in Virg^a, born in Ohio.

Jerry Anderson, Indiana.

Negroes:

Dangerfield Newly, Virg^a formerly—last couple years Ohio.

O. P. Anderson, Penn^a.

Emperor, N. York, formerly S. Carolina.

Leary, Oberlin, Ohio—formerly Virg^a.

Copeland, Same do.

“Our organization had a constitution & ordinances.”

A. F. FOGS TO JOHN BROWN.

[Envelope] [MS.] Ossawatimie John Brown, Charlestown Jail, Virginia.

[Endorsed] A. F. Fogs. improper.

Manchester, Mass., Oct. 31, 1859.

My dear and much loved friend and Bro. John Brown:

The following resolutions were drawn and presented by myself to a quarterly meeting of the Essex Co. Anti Slavery Society holden yesterday in this town. The resolutions were unanimously passed, and it was voted that they be signed by the chairman and secretary and forwarded to you.

Dear Brown, whatever the political papers may say in reference to you, I assure you there is every where a deep sympathy felt for you.

You have begun a good work that will be sure to be followed up. Yorktown and Saratoga followed Lexington and Bunker Hill. Your brave and noble bearing commands the Admiration of all brave men and women.

God bless you, my dear Brother.

Yours for the freedom of the slave,

A. F. Fogs.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, that all those persons, who recognize the right of the oppressed white man to rise against his oppressor and to break his chains even over the heads of the tyrants, are bound

to recognize the same right in the colored slave of this land and to hail with gratitude and joy the recent demonstration of John Brown and his associates at Harper's Ferry, which for Heroic daring, as well as for moderation and humanity, has never been excelled and only in a few instances equalled in the history of the world.

Resolved, that the Heroic bearing of John Brown as he lay wounded in that Engine House, and with a calmness and dignity truly sublime answered the questions of Governor Wise and his associates, who stood in mortal fear before him, challenges and will receive the admiration of the world.

Resolved, that the Courage of John Brown, bleeding in his chains before the enslaved Courts of Virginia, and the cowardice of these Courts surrounded with Bayonets is illustrative of the influence of Freedom and Slavery upon human character.

P. M. CLARK TO GOV. WISE.

[Envelope] [MS.] Hon. Henry A. Wise, Richmond, Virginia.

[Endorsed] Gov. Wise rec'd letter about Tidd. Non action Forward this to A. Hunter, Esq', Charlestown, Va.

Springfield, Me., Nov. 29, 1859.

Hon. H. A. Wise:

Dear Sir,—Chas. P. Tidd, reported killed at Harper's Ferry Insurrection, formerly resided in this vicinity, and some of his relations now live in the adjoining towns of Lee and Prentiss. His brother, Wm. P., called on me yesterday, and requested me to write to you and ask you, if it be true, as the papers report, that you have offered a reward of \$500 for his arrest. Also, to pen a note to *Cook*, which I herewith enclose, requesting him to state whether Tidd was one of the party he is reported to have left in the Mountains.

Will you please forward the enclosed note to Cook. Also, answer the question proposed to you, directing your reply to Wm. P. Tidd, Prentiss, Maine, and you will confer a great favor on Tidd's family, and very much oblige,

Yours Respectfully,

P. M. CLARK.

[Letter to Cook from P. M. Clark.]

Springfield, Maine, Nov. 29, 1859.

Mr. Cook:

Dear Sir,—Wm. P. Tidd, brother of Chas. P. Tidd, called on me yesterday, and requested me to write to you, and ask you whether said Tidd was or was not killed at Harper's Ferry. Also, whether he was one of the party you are reported to have left in the Mountains.

Please direct to Wm. P. Tidd, Prentiss, Maine.

Very Respectfully,

P. M. CLARK.

ESTHER TO A. D. STEVENS.

[Envelope] [MS.] A. D. Stevens, Charleston Jail, Virginia.
In the care of the Jailor.

[Endorsed] Esther, Tipton, Ohio.

Tipton, December 11, 1859.

Dear Friend,—Moses and Charlotte were here yesterday, and brought several letters for me to read, one from thee to Ella, and also to them. I was glad to hear from thee directly, as nothing definite, in regard to thy health had come in the papers. I am glad to learn of thy recovery. I think thou must have suffered much. O, how I wanted to be with thee in thy cell; and extend a sister's hand in thy affliction. But this could not be—but, in spirit I was there, trying to comfort thee.

But I hope there were kind hearts around thee. Many, very many there are in this Christian country who profess to be the followers of Jesus Christ that can hardly wait for the time to come when the rest of those rebels shall meet their death upon the gallows. Even here in the north the cry is with some "they have been treated to kindly," "they should have been strung up without judge or jury." But I say if they *deserve to die*, let them die, but they die in a glorious cause. A colored man lectured here a week ago, he said "they had murdered old John Brown, simply because he had carried out in practice, the sermon on the Mount."

If this be true, who could wish to die a more glorious death?

It seems hard to see the noblest of America's sons fall in this way; but if *their lives* will aid the cause of freedom, I have no doubt they willingly lay them down. I know I should. When we think of the amount of crime, and woe, and wickedness there is in our land, does not our heart tremble for the fate of our country? I can say with Fred Douglass, "that for shameless hypocrisy and shocking barbarity, America lives without a rival."

There is a man lecturing in town now upon the fulfillment of prophecies in the book of Revelations. In the Revelations, 13 chap. an 11 verse, it says,—I beheld *another* beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. He represented the United States Government as this beast, one of the horns was the Bible, the other the constitution and the declaration of independence, he said these were lamb like, *but he spake as a dragon*. And these were some of the words of his mouth (the mouth being W——n): The Fugitive Slave law, Dred Scott decision, and all such like words. But this may not interest thee. I tho't I had herd Antislavery speeches before, but that *black man* went ahead of every thing.

The time will soon be here when John & Edwin will be executed. If this reaches thee in time give my love and sympathy to them. I hope we will meet in a better land.

There is not a day nor an hour passes but what I think of you, in your prison home, many, very many here, sympathize with you.

Poor Ann Rarley is almost crazy, some think she will not live through it, But I hope she will live through, and see the dawning of a brighter day. Though we all may have to suffer much ere the dawning of that day. But in the fulfillment of any noble cause, there must always be myrters, and the good, the great, and the noble are always first to go. Of course we do not believe in the way you wished to bring the freedom of the slave about, but still we cannot help but sympathize with you, in your disappointment and distress.

I must stop, as I might weary thy patience. Write to me at this place if thou feels like it.

I am going to school here and enjoying myself first rate, only when I think of my friends in prison, and I long to see them

once more ere they lay down their lives upon the scaffold. But this cannot be, but may we all meet on that blissful shore, wher no sorrow ever comes. One of my roommates "say I dont se how they can be so cheerful."

Good by, accepting love an sympathy, while I remain as ever thy friend,

ESTHER ———.

G. L. KILE TO M. JOHNSON.

[Endorsed] Marshal Johnson, Cleveland, Nov. —, 1869.
Names not to be published.

North Bloomfield, Nov. 11, '59.

M. Johnson, U. S. Marshal:

Sir,—I have of late been visiting most of the towns in Ash-tabula Co. The excitement is the Harper's Ferry affair. I staid last night at Andover, and in conversation with a merchant of that place, Mr. Norton, who by the way is a prominent man, he told me that he saw John Brown, Jr., the day before, and that Brown told him that he had just returned from a trip across the water. I suppose this meant *Canada*. He asked him what he thought about his father's being hung; his reply was, that it would never be done, and that the end of the Harper's Ferry war had not come, and he knew of 9,000 desperate men, well armed and equiped ready for any emergency, and it was dreadful to contemplate their action. By men of good standing it is thought that there is a secret organization in Ashtabula County that would try and capture any one that should be arrested for aiding and assisting in the John Brown raid.

Brown has moved away from Andover. He now lives in Dorset, and I was told that some of the knowing ones have advised him to leave for parts unknown—but he says that he will not, and will never be taken alive. He goes well armed and ready for the worst, I am told—I was told at Jefferson that the *old War Horse* was a good deal cast down and seemed to be in trouble. I think if all was known he has reason to be.

You will please to keep this epistle private—as I have seen and heard considerable I thought I would just give you a few of the outlines, hoping that all who trample upon the laws of the

land may be speedily brought to justice—Any thing that I can do to assist in bringing these desperadoes to justice I am at all times ready to do.

Yrs., G. L. KILE.

Copy.

Rome, Ashtabula Co., Nov. 8.

We are on the eve of a Revolution, if the people are gulled by such men as Giddings & Co. It becomes the duty of every Democrat to encourage the circulation of the Democratic papers among the people to warn them against insurrections that may take place in the U. States. Many of our sanctified priests knew of the Harper's Ferry insurrection a number of months before it took place and prayed for it. One of my neighbors, a Presbyterian minister, has informed me since the insurrection at Harper's Ferry that he knew it two months before it took place and gave his word to keep it a secret, which he did—No doubt that in this vicinity many others knew it. I have been so informed.

Yours in haste,

S. ROGERS, P. M.

B. Harrington, Esq., P. M.

M. JOHNSON TO ANDREW HUNTER.

[Printed] United States Marshal's Office, Northern District of Ohio.

Cleveland, O—, Nov. 15, 1859.

Hon. Andrew Hunter:

Dear Sir,—Your favor of the 10th inst. is received—I am satisfied that some movement is on foot to rescue if possible Brown and his Confederates. I enclose you copies of letters which I have received from persons in this state which go far to substantiate the intimations in the one the Copy of which you enclosed me—Mark particularly the one from Mr. Kyle.

I have put a watch upon the depot at Oberlin, and if any of the inhabitants of that place leave I will know it—My idea, however, is that if any persons go to your region for the purpose of a rescue, they will go by way of Cincinnati and go through Pennsylvania.—Confidentially, I desire to call your attention to

the praises which old Brown heaps upon your Jailor. This thing has often been remarked upon in my hearing. Brown, to me, lavished his enconiums upon Mr. Avis in his presence, and numerous letter writers speak of this matter. Brown, in place of being crazy, is as shrewd as the d—l, and knows well how to get on the right side of a generous man—

Without intending wrong, the best of men may be imposed upon, and it is very important that those having charge of these men should be proof against flattery and as true as steel. Of course this is all my own suggestion, not doubting the trustfulness of any Virginian—Copeland told me that he knew that an insurrection was to have taken place in Kentucky about the same time that the Harper's Ferry affair came off—Of this I have no doubt—The men that were to be in Kentucky of course are desperate men like those who were with Brown, and if there is to be any additional trouble in Virginia, those men will be on hand—If any movement, however small, occurs here that will be of moment to you, I will instantly communicate by telegraph.

Amongst the papers which I examined in your office, was an article written by Kagi for one of our Abolition papers in this city, commenting upon myself—In the hurry that day I failed to get a copy—It is written on the back of two of the Commissions in Blank—You will oblige me very much if you will enclose me the *original* papers—Kagi, being dead, they are of no use to any one—Whilst Kagi was here he wrote several editorials for the papers here, as well as corresponded with Greely. I want the written proof in his own handwriting for my purposes here—All lovers of our Common Country in this state, hope that your authorities will not led into the fatal error of extending any mercy to the men now under conviction—in the way of commutation.

In the case of parties in this state who were implicated with Brown I am unable to furnish as yet any additional evidence to what you possess. There is, I understand, a good deal of hard feeling at Oberlin against Plumb and those leading men who sent forward the ignorant negroes—After Copeland is executed we expect some developments from his relatives. We hope a Bill will be found against some of these parties, and a requisition made upon Gov. Chase. I wish you would obtain from

Copeland before his execution another statement confirming the one made to me—I desire this especially.

Yours Very Truly,

M. JOHNSON.

JOHN GAGE TO JOHN BROWN.

Gage's Lake, Lake Co., Ill., Nov. 14, '59.

Friend John Brown:

Though unknown to you, I have known & respected you for your Courage & humanity in defending the cause of freedom; & for your help to stay the hand of the ruffian & assassin in Kansas. I always respected your humanity as well as your courage, for I know of no case where you have taken life or caused pain unnecessarily, & it is therefore a satisfaction to me to send you my sympathy; and I thank the Abolitionists & Republicans in general, and you in particular, for the liberty we have still left us in most places in the northern states, of speaking our sentiments about slavery.

No man who believes that "all men are created free & equal," dare go to the southern states & say so, for his life would be in danger, and consequently no man of an independent spirit who believes in universal freedom dare live south; the consequence is that a majority of our people are forever debarred from the southern states, or denied the freedom of speech. I want this freedom, and am entitled to it as a birthright from the United States—but while slavery lives I cannot have it.

I am ashamed & vexed to say the United States are leagued to Slavery—& has lent them its power to conquer a gray-headed old man, whose crime was a living zeal for freedom, and she delivers her prisoner to this power for a *sacrifice* upon the altar of slavery. But as sure as God is all powerfull & just *freedom* will arise from the ashes.

Sincerely Your Friend,

JOHN GAGE.

(TO BE CONTINUED)